

1st Steering Committee Meeting DANUBEparksCONNECTED

- 1st period review
- Upcoming events & strategic actions
- Strategic decisions

1st DANUBEparksCONNECTED Steering Committee Meeting

Kopacki rit, 29th June, 2017

Georg Frank, DANUBEparksCONNECTED Project Manager

WP1 Project Management

- 1.1 Management and Coordination
- 1.2 Steering Committee
- 1.3 Financial Management and Auditing

**First Reporting delay:
mid of July !**

**First Year Review
(November 2017):
obligatory !**



WP2 Communication

2.1 Network Communication

2.2 Dissemination

2.3 1st Danube Volunteers Day: dry habitats

2.4 2nd Danube Volunteers Day: promoting WILDisland

2.5 Cycling the Dyke

DANUBEparksCONNECTED
Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat
Corridor

Communication Plan



Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

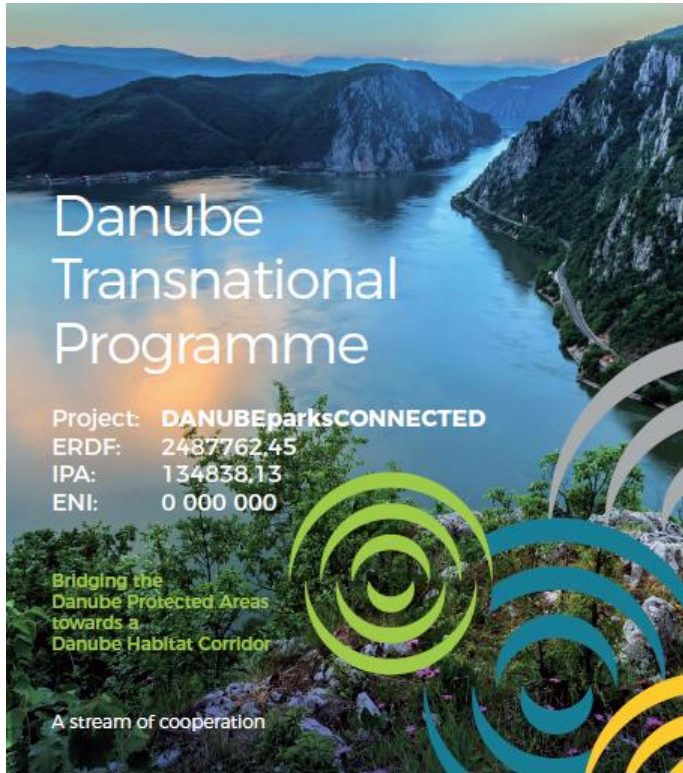
Orth an der Donau, 23.1.2017
Georg Frank & Stephanie Blutaumüller, Donau-Auen National Park

Communication Plan

- Obligatory for all projects
- Includes main pillars of project communication
- ready since project start
- including event calendar



Kick-off Conference
Ingolstadt, 21st February 2017



DANUBE INSIDE



The Danube Island in Gössing, Austria

DANUBE parks CONNECTED – Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor



Georg Fink
DANUBEproject
Project Manager

Countering the main threat to biodiversity in Europe: landscape fragmentation and isolation of Protected Areas

DANUBE PARKS – The Danube River Network of Protected Areas – preserves some of our most valuable natural sites. Yet habitat fragmentation limits efforts to preserve a truly cohesive ecosystem. In recent decades, the dynamic economic development of Southeast Europe has put growing pressure on the natural treasures of the Danube. Urban sprawl, major new infrastructure projects in transportation and energy, and the increasing intensification of land use has led to less ecological connectivity. Together, the fragmentation of ecosystems and lack of connectivity among Protected Areas pose the greatest threat to biodiversity in Europe, and limit the effectiveness of existing conservation efforts in valuable natural sites.

To counteract this development, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUDR) Action Plan and other important policies have issued calls for action to restore and preserve habitat connectivity, and to strengthen Protected Areas in their function as key sites of the Danube Habitat Corridor. European initiatives like the Natura 2000 Network and the Green Infrastructure concept should bring about the establishment of trans-European green networks (TEN-G).

The special relevance of river ecosystems as eco-corridors

While most may associate habitat connectivity as pertains to rivers with the longitudinal connectivity of aquatic habitats, rivers in fact serve an even greater purpose: as essential wildlife corridors, whose semiaquatic habitats like sandbars, gravel banks and islands are literal stepping stones. They are also flyways of extraordinary importance for the migration of waterfowl, geese, gulls, and birds of prey. Rivers even form ecological corridors for dry and semi-arid habitats. This sheer variety of habitats – which can only be formed by intact river systems – provides suitable living conditions for a wide range of organisms. This makes riverine habitats essential eco-corridors.

Danube Protected Areas' responsibility for ecological connectivity in Europe

Because the Danube links more separate ecological and biogeographic regions than any other corridor in Europe, habitat connectivity and functioning riverine ecosystems that enable animal migration are especially pertinent issues. Counteracting the negative effects of long-term habitat displacement and climate change will

be more important than ever in future in order to ensure adequate and functioning migration corridors connecting the Black Sea, Steppic, Pannonic, Continental and Alpine regions.

Along with the Natura 2000 Network, the Danube Protected Areas represent the key areas, and form the backbone of this ecological corridor. However, because the amount of land designated as national conservation areas is still too small to serve self-sustaining wildlife populations, our main challenge – now and in future – will be to create and maintain habitat connectivity and contiguous ecosystems in order to ensure biodiversity in the centuries to come.



View taken by the Danube Habitat Corridor near the PIM (Dobruša) in the air (DANUBIS PIM 2007) and on land (Forest and City habitats)

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DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED - BRIDGING THE DANUBE PROTECTED AREAS TOWARDS A DANUBE HABITAT CORRIDOR

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The Danube River is a green lifeline for biodiversity. While the Network of Danube Protected Areas preserves the most valuable sites, habitat fragmentation limits efforts to preserve a cohesive ecosystem.



Start date
01-01-2017

End date
30-06-2019

Budget in Euro
Overall: 3085412,49
ERDF Contribution: 2487762,45
IPA Contribution: 134838,13
ENI Contribution: 0

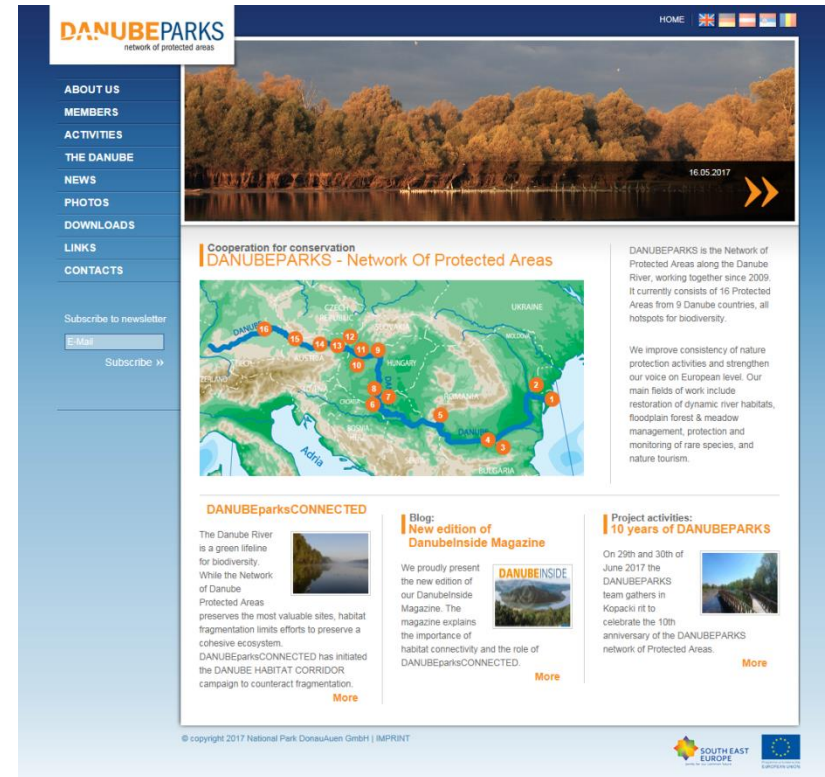
Call number
Call 1

Priority
Environment and culture responsible Danube region

Specific objective
Foster the restoration and management of

DANUBE parksCONNECTED has initiated the DANUBE HABITAT CORRIDOR campaign to counteract fragmentation. It offers Danube-wide strategies and exemplary activities aiming to restore and maintain connectivity in all habitat elements:

- o **Water:** The cross-sector Danube WILD island CORRIDOR program protects the islands, which are flagship habitats for intact river dynamics and home to characteristic species.
- o **Land:** Natural river systems also host dry habitats, today often fragmented to isolated patches. Under DANUBE DRY HABITAT



DANUBE PARKS
network of protected areas

HOME

16.05.2017

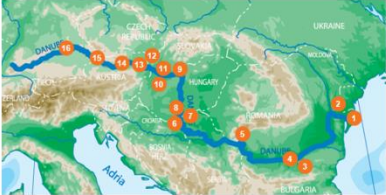
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Cooperation for conservation
DANUBE PARKS - Network Of Protected Areas

DANUBE PARKS is the Network of Protected Areas along the Danube River, working together since 2009. It currently consists of 16 Protected Areas from 9 Danube countries, all hotspots for biodiversity.

We improve consistency of nature protection activities and strengthen our voice on European level. Our main fields of work include restoration of dynamic river habitats, floodplain forest & meadow management, protection and monitoring of rare species, and nature tourism.



DANUBE parksCONNECTED

The Danube River is a green lifeline for biodiversity. While the Network of Danube Protected Areas preserves the most valuable sites, habitat fragmentation limits efforts to preserve a cohesive ecosystem. DANUBE parksCONNECTED has initiated the DANUBE HABITAT CORRIDOR campaign to counteract fragmentation.

Blog: New edition of Danubeinside Magazine

We proudly present the new edition of our Danubeinside Magazine. The magazine explains the importance of habitat connectivity and the role of DANUBE parksCONNECTED.

Project activities: 10 years of DANUBE PARKS

On 29th and 30th of June 2017 the DANUBE PARKS team gathers in Kopacki rit to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the DANUBE PARKS network of Protected Areas.

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SOUTH EAST EUROPE

www.interreg-danube.eu/danubeparksconnected

www.danubeparks.org



Gefällt mir Teilen ...

Nachricht senden

Danubeparks
Network of
Protected Areas
@DANUBE PARKS

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„Gefällt mir“-Angaben

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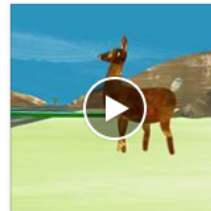
Beiträge



Danubeparks Network of Protected Areas

20. Juni um 08:50 · 🌐

One river two mountains! The new video of DANUBE PARKS, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, [Alparc](#) and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) explains how ecological connectivity works...
https://youtu.be/_a3pdvaGpgA



One river two mountains - ecological connectivity works

DANUBE PARKS together with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (Alparc) and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), a Memorandum of Cooperation wa...

YOUTUBE.COM

Gefällt mir Kommentieren Teilen

Amazon of Europe, John Smith, Anna-Sophie Pirtscher und 6 anderen gefällt das.

1 Mal geteilt

Gemeinschaftliche Organisation in Orth an der Donau

5,0 ★★★★★

Community

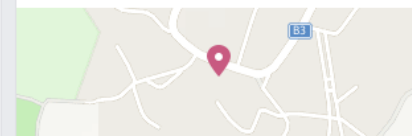
Lade deine Freunde ein, diese Seite mit „Gefällt mir“ zu markieren

877 Personen gefällt das

867 Personen haben das abonniert

2 Personen waren hier

Info Alle anzeigen



Schlossplatz 1
2304 Orth an der Donau

+43 2212 3450

DANUBE PROTECTED AREAS – CORE SITES WITHIN THE DANUBE HABITAT CORRIDOR

Since 10 years, DANUBE PARKS – The Danube River Network of Protected Areas – preserves some of our most valuable natural sites. Yet habitat fragmentation limits efforts to preserve a truly cohesive ecosystem. Through DANUBE parks CONNECTED, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, we strengthen ecological connectivity and the Danube Habitat Corridor on water (WILDIsland), in the air (DANUBE FREE SKY) and on land (Forest and Dry Habitats).

www.interreg-danube.eu/danubeparksconnected



DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED SUCCESSFULLY STARTED

The DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED Kick-off conference on 21st and 22nd of February 2017 in Ingolstadt/Germany brought together more than 100 participants from 11 countries and various sectors. The welcome speech of Christian Lösel (Lord Mayor of the City of Ingolstadt), the key notes by Carl Manzano (DANUBE PARKS President, Director Donau-Auen Nationalpark), Florian Ballnus (Priority Area Coordinator, EUSDR PAC 6), Veronika Sikova (Priority Area Coordinator, EUSDR PAC 2) and Gusztáv Csomor (Project Officer, DTP Joint Secretariat), perfectly introduced the audience to the subject.



While most may associate habitat connectivity as pertains to rivers with the longitudinal connectivity of aquatic habitats, rivers in fact serve an even greater purpose: as essential wildlife corridors, whose semiaquatic habitats like sand bars, gravel banks and islands are literal stepping stones. They are also flyways of extraordinary importance for the migration of birds. Rivers even form ecological corridors for dry and semi-arid habitats. This sheer variety of habitats – which can only be formed by intact river systems – provides suitable living conditions for a wide range of organisms. The presentations by the project team of DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED stressed the importance of the Danube river as essential eco-corridor and aroused big interest by the local media.

[More information](#) and [Press review](#)

DANUBE HABITAT CORRIDOR WATER: WILDISLAND

The wild Danube islands are not only beautiful; they are essential for nature conservation and biodiversity. The WILDIsland initiative launched by DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED will contribute that these islands remain integral ecological stepping stones in the riverine corridor.

Under the coordination of Duna-Ipoly National Park/Hungary, the principles of the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor have been discussed and drafted at the transnational workshop on 22nd of February. The European Wilderness Society in their role as Associated Strategic Partner provided important inputs. A first Danube-wide inventory of potential WILDIslands has been done, and for each country, pilot islands were nominated by the Protected Areas. Furthermore, the planning phase for the restoration of selected Danube islands has started; these pilot actions will deliver concrete and visible results for the conservation and restoration of WILDIslands.



While the Danube Islands are key flagship habitats for the Danube Habitat Corridor, the Danube is also an international waterway which makes cooperation among both sectors – conservation and navigation – extremely important. On 26th-27th April, the first cross-sectorial conference together with the Danube STRATA project already took place in Dunaszentgyörgy (Erdő-Hárszeg National Park/Hungary), including key notes by the Danube Sediment project. Joint future steps were discussed and both projects developed a joint roadmap for future cooperation.

The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor campaign will be further developed at the upcoming workshop on 8th of September 2017 in the Duna-Ipoly National Park/Hungary.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10 years DANUBE PARKS from 28th of June to 1st of July in Kopački rit (Croatia)

Ten years ago, in April 2007, protected area managers from eight Danube countries met in Tulcea (Romania) and established the Danube River Network of Protected Areas. Today DANUBE PARKS consists of 16 partners from 9 Danube countries.

The DANUBE PARKS 10th anniversary will be celebrated in the frame of the Kick-off of the 1st Danube Volunteers Day to promote dry habitats. The DANUBE PARKS team will voluntarily work in the Nature Park Kopački rit. In August and September 2017, all Danube Protected Areas will organise a Volunteers day for the public.



1st Danube Volunteers day to promote dry habitats

In the period from August to November 2017, Protected Areas from 8 Danube countries are hosting different Volunteer activities to manage and promote the valuable dry habitats in the Danube region. All interested people in the Danube region are invited to work together for dry meadows, to mow the grass in reserves, to manage the habitats of characteristic bird species, and to be active for rare orchids.

Interested to join? [Contact us](#) and we tell you which Volunteer activity is the closest to you!

More details will follow in our next Newsletter!



1st DANUBE parks CONNECTED Newsletter: 20th June, 2017
(2nd edition: planned as special edition to promote 1st Danube Volunteers Day)

1st DANUBEparksCONNECTED Internal Newsletter (January – March)

2nd edition will follow soon (April – June)

Internal Newsletter of DANUBEparksCONNECTED January to March 2017

News from the Work Packages

Project Management

Our DANUBEparksCONNECTED Project started with 1st of January 2017. The new project assistant Stephanie Blutaumüller moved to her desk opposite from Georg Frank at the Donau-Auen National Park offices.

The first Lead partners seminar and communication training has been organised on 26th and 27th of January by the Joint Secretariat (JS) of the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) in Budapest. Georg Frank has been invited to present the former project DANUBEparks 2.0 as a best practice in project implementation. Seems as we are well prepared for the next round.



Another very important aspect of this meetings is the capitalisation process. The DTP encourages all projects to establish cooperation's with other projects with overlapping topics. DANUBEparksCONNECTED is part of the "Thematic pole 5b – Nature values" and should work closely with the projects coopMDD (where Magdalena Wagner is project manager), LENA, Danube Geo Tour, ECO KARST and NETWORKLD. At the DTP project website you can find more information about all approved projects in this call: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects>

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

Our colleagues from Landkreis Passau are involved in the 19th car-free bike day at the Danube on 23rd of April 2017.

The bike-trail leads from Passau to the "Schlögenger Donauschlinge" and passes 4 Bavarian and 8 upper-Austrian municipalities. On this day no cars are allowed on the roads which leaves the whole space to the bikers. Several small events are organised by the municipalities along the trail. The car-free bike day could be linked to one of the DANUBEparksCONNECTED activities (e.g. 2nd Volunteers day or Cycling the Dyke).



Picture: WGD Oberösterreich

Coming up soon! Meetings and activities within DANUBEparksCONNECTED

April 25 th to 27 th	Cross-sectorial conference Dunakiliti WP 3 Dunakiliti (HU), Organized by Fertő Hanság
June 29 th to 30 th	10 years DANUBEparks Kopacki Rit (HR),
September	1 st Volunteers Day

**Send your infos !
Share your experiences !**

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

2ND CALL IS CLOSED

Interreg Danube Transnational Programme

Search... Member area

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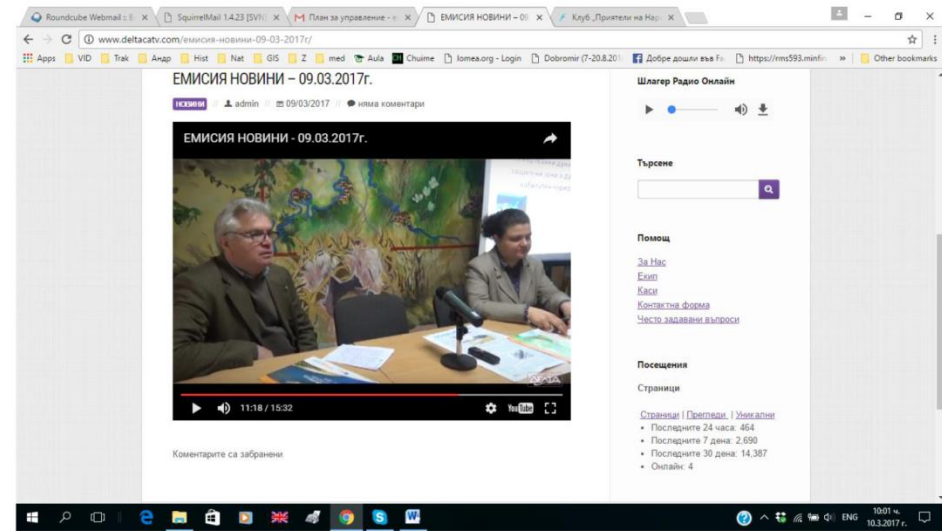
PRESS REVIEW

Kick- conference 21st and 22nd of February in Ingolstadt

- INTV Video: <https://www.intv.de/mediathek/video/danubeparks-konferenz-ingolstadt/>
- Bayrischer Städtetag paper
- Article Life Energy
- Article NÖN - Austrian Newspaper
- Article European Wilderness Society
- Report Radio NDI
- Article Donaukurier Newspaper
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<http://www.deltacatv.com/%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8-09-03-2017%D0%B3/>



ЕМИСИЯ НОВИНИ - 09.03.2017г.

ЕМИСИЯ НОВИНИ - 09.03.2017г.

11:18 / 15:32

Коментарите са забранени.

Шлагер Радио Онлайн

Търсене

Помощ

За нас Екип Каса Контактна форма Често задавани въпроси

Посещения

Страници

Страници | Преглед | Уведомяване

- Последните 24 часа: 464
- Последните 7 дена: 2,690
- Последните 30 дена: 14,387
- Онлайн: 4

We have a message !

Make use out of it !



DANUBEparksCONNECTED: „Best practice“ for communication within Interreg (15th February, 2017, Valencia)



DANUBEPARKS: „Best Practice“ at the Lead Partner Training Seminar
(25th January, 2017)



DANUBEparksCONNECTED: coordinator of pole „natural values“ within
The Danube Transnational Programme (25th January, 2017)

Danube Transnational Programme video shooting (23rd June, 2017)



WILD RIDE THROUGH DTP PROJECTS!

23-06-2017

Budapest, Nitra, Orth an der Donau, Szentendre, Szolnok... My recent journey throughout the Danube Region was a great opportunity to meet with several projects partners and find out more about their **expected results and driving forces** for implementation of **transnational cooperation projects**. Along with a professional cameraman, Gergő from Eco Logical Films, we took the road, eager to learn more about EU funded projects in our region!



The first project we visited was DanubeParksConnected, in Austria. Georg Frank from the Donau-Auen National Park (Lead Partner in this project), together with 4 colleagues friendly welcomed us on the Danube riverbank. Guided by a professional rancher, we embarked on a rubber boat, with four intended sights: the **Wildisland** - valuable breeding area for flagship species in the Danube Region, a **Powerline crossing the Danube** - causing thousands of bird collisions and electrocutions every year, **Dry habitats** - home to rare orchid species, and the **Floodplain forest** - thoroughly preserved from any human activities.



We also had the chance to interview **Carl Manzano**, Director of the Donau-Auen National Park and President of the DanubeParks network. He expressed his strong faith and incentives towards **transnational cooperation and solidarity**, fostering the sharing of ideas and assets, thus encouraging **strategic work towards common goals**.

The Danube River as European ecological corridor and its further development as Trans European Green Infrastructure by DANUBE parks CONNECTED

Georg Frank: DANUBE PARKS – Danube River Network of Protected Areas, Donau-Auen National Park, Austria, g.frank@danubeparks.org

The Danube – a transnational habitat corridor of European importance

The Danube is a hub of biodiversity and an essential life-line of Europe. The large number of Natura 2000 sites and Protected Area impressively shows Europe's commitment to preserve this natural heritage (ICPDR 2009, ICPDR 2015).

Rivers, their riparian zones and riverine habitats form ecological networks and often build the backbone for bio-corridors. This pertains to the Danube in particular, due to its outstanding role as a link between more bio-regions than any other corridor in Europe. Facing e.g. an increasing future impact of climate change, intact corridors for migration and dispersal of species between the Black Sea Region, the Steppe Region, the Pannionian Region, the Continental and, finally, the Alpine Region, will gain increasing relevance, as such a corridor function could be ensured by a vital Danube river ecosystem.

Fragmentation of the landscape – a main threat for biodiversity in Europe

While Protected Areas preserve some of the most valuable natural sites, habitat fragmentation limits efforts to preserve a cohesive ecosystem (e.g. Crooks & Sanjayan 2006). Human infrastructure, extensions of urban areas, the establishment of new transport routes and energy infrastructure as well as the ongoing intensification of the land-use put growing pressure on the natural treasures



Figure 1. The WILDIslands initiative promotes the non-intervention management of selected gravel banks, sand bars and smaller Danube islands. The designation of WILDIslands should result in the establishment of a Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor, to promote the importance of river dynamics and wilderness on European rivers. Credit: Porsina Nature Park/Alexander Ivanov

of the Danube. Consequently, the isolation of Protected Areas is one of the main threats to biodiversity in the Upper Danube; the increase of fragmentation reduces ecological connectivity of high-value ecosystems in the Middle and Lower Danube.

To counteract, policies such as the EUSDR Action Plan call for actions to restore and preserve habitat connectivity (European Commission 2010) and to establish a Trans-European Network of Green Infrastructure (European Commission 2013).

DANUBE parks CONNECTED – towards a Danube Habitat Corridor



In January 2017, DANUBE PARKS, the Danube River Network of Protected Areas launched the initiative for the conservation and further development of the Danube Habitat Corridor. With funds of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, this project intends to raise awareness for the Danube River as bio-corridor. It aims to promote a better conservation of less-fragmented areas, and implements pilot actions to restore aquatic (WILDIsland) and terrestrial (riparian forest, dry habitats) "stepping stones" within this eco-corridor, as well as the Danube as bird flyway (Danube Free Sky).

- **WILDIsland** – the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor Islands are flagship habitats in vital river ecosystems. They showcase the dynamic of river morphological processes like the relocation of sediments. The Joint – Danube Survey stressed the outstanding role of islands for characteristic indicator species (Schmidt et al. 2015).

DANUBE parks CONNECTED elaborates a concept for selected islands, gravel banks and sand bars to promote non-intervention management – a key to ensure natural processes in the future and characteristic habitat structures on a long term. Based on strategic cooperation with land owners, land users (e.g. waterway administrations, forest enterprises) and policy makers, "WILDIslands" will be designated. The implementation of pilot actions for their conservation and rehabilitation should increase the habitat quality of Danube Islands and will improve their functionality as stepping stones within the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor.

Publication in the magazine of IAD „Danube news“



Figure 2. The Danube riparian forests form a green belt all along the river and provide numerous ecosystem services. Habitat impacts in the past decades and ongoing intensification of the land use limits these services and can interrupt the coherence of the riparian forest. Credit: Donau-Auen National Park/Franz Kovacs.

- **Danube Riparian Forest Corridor** – the green lifeline of the Danube

Wetland forests are vital habitats serving multiple functions for flora, fauna and humans. Due to human intervention in the past, the loss of Danube floodplains can be assumed with at least 65-70%. The remaining floodplains suffer from hydrological disconnection, fine sediment aggradation and the substitution of natural floodplain vegetation by poplar plantations (Schwarz et al. 2015).



Figure 3. 4. The Danube Corridor hosts some of the most valuable game dry habitats along the river and act as core areas within the Danube Habitat Corridor. Good practice management of grasslands like grazing is established within DANUBE parks CONNECTED, to further develop and sustain. Credit: Donau Auen National Park/Zsolt Kallós; NABU/parks Donau-Auen/Katharina Zsok.



Figure 3. 4. The Danube Corridor hosts some of the most valuable game dry habitats along the river and act as core areas within the Danube Habitat Corridor. Good practice management of grasslands like grazing is established within DANUBE parks CONNECTED, to further develop and sustain. Credit: Donau Auen National Park/Zsolt Kallós; NABU/parks Donau-Auen/Katharina Zsok.

Habitat Corridor. To overcome these fragmentations, pilot actions with focus on reforestation, the transformation of plantations into native stands, the management of invasive alien tree species and, finally, the promotion of characteristic species (*Populus nigra*, bats as indicators) will be implemented.

• Danube Dry Habitat Corridor

Beside aquatic and semi-aquatic habitat types, even dry habitats are an indispensable part of natural river ecosystems. Due to hydro-morphological alterations and changes in the traditional land use, today these (semi-)dry sites are often reduced to small remnants in the floodplain areas. These sites are home to highly endangered plant and animal communities. Eco-corridors for dry habitats are discussed to avoid isolation of these habitat patches.

DANUBE parks CONNECTED aims to contribute to a better conservation of core areas represented by the "Danube Canyons", home to diverse dry habitats and characteristic species. Additionally, good practice management for semi-dry habitats in the floodplain area ("Heilslands") is promoted by project activities. Finally, DANUBE parks CONNECTED intends to develop Green Infrastructure between these sites, e.g. by establishing cross-border grazing at the flood protection dykes which could act as ecological linkage for semi-dry grassland species in some sections of the Danube.

- **Danube Free Sky** – facing the risk of bird collision on electric power lines

The Danube River is a flyway for bird migration of European importance. In particular for bird species depending on aquatic habitats (waterfowl, storks, terns, gulls, swans,

several species of birds of prey), the Danube and its riparian zone provide vital breeding, resting and wintering sites and, furthermore, form a "guiding line" across Europe for their short- and long-distance movements.

Danube Protected Areas, Natura 2000 and other valuable natural areas preserve core sites within this eco-corridor, but electric power lines are barriers along the Danube flyway. Due to the large quantity of birds on migration and the big ratio of bird species with relatively high risk of collision, large rivers have to be considered as hot-spots regarding the (potential) conflict of bird conservation and collision at electric power lines (FNN 2014). Each year, millions of birds are killed due to such collisions (T.NL Umweltplanung 2017).

The Danube Free Sky campaign brings together nature conservation and the energy sector to exchange best practice experiences and boosts the implementation of technical solutions for existing powerlines in the Danube riparian zone (e.g. marking power lines with bird converters).

Danube Habitat Corridor – a long-term multidisciplinary approach

The comprehensive development of Green Infrastructure to preserve the Danube River as a Trans-European Ecological Network (TEN-G) is a long-term approach. The DANUBE parks CONNECTED campaign implements first pilot actions. It aims to establish good practices towards habitat connectivity, and wants to initiate a long-term strategic process to further develop ecological connectivity.

Today, most of the last remaining large-scale forest complexes are protected by the Danube Areas, famous for the richness in biodiversity. Isolation of their wildlife population, ecological measures are needed. Under the coordinated disunited Public Forest Enterprise, a Danube check" of riparian forest ecosystems will be census and the EU Copernicus Land Monitor help to identify gaps within the Danube RI



Figure 5. 6. The Danube River is an important flyway for bird migration. For numerous species like waterfowl, waders, storks, pelicans and birds of prey, collision at electric power lines is a highly relevant mortality factor. In cooperation with the energy sector, Danube Free Sky promotes technical solutions for existing power lines along the Danube, which can reduce the risk of collision by 60-90%. Credit: NABU/parks Donau-Auen/Georg Frank.



DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED – EINE INITIATIVE DER DONAU-SCHUTZGEBIETE ZUR STÄRKUNG DES ÖKOLOGISCHEN VERBUNDES ENTLANG DER DONAU

GEORG FRANK

Lebensraumzerschneidung und Fragmentierung von Ökosystemen gelten als Hauptursachen für den massiven Verlust der Biodiversität der letzten Jahrzehnte in Europa. Der Sicherung bestehender Lebensraumkorridore wird daher im Naturschutz gerade in Zeiten des Klimawandels eine zunehmende Bedeutung beigemessen. Große Flüsse und ihre Auenlandschaften können dabei in vielen Regionen ein Schlüsselrolle einnehmen, stellen sie doch aufgrund ihrer vielfältigen Lebensraumausstattung für eine besonders breite Palette an Arten einen geeigneten Lebensraumverbund dar. Die Donau verbindet mehr biogeografische Regionen als jeder andere ökologische Korridor in Europa und ist daher von herausragender Bedeutung. Die Großschutzgebiete an der Donau dienen als Kernareale und arbeiten im Netzwerk der Donau-Schutzgebiete (DANUBE PARKS) an einem durchgehenden Schutzgebietsverbund. Neben der Sicherung möglichst unzerschnittener Lebensräume ist gerade in einem so vielfältigen Raum auch die Sicherung permeabler Ökosysteme und barrierefreier Ausbreitungswege entscheidend für den langfristigen Erhalt der Artenvielfalt. Mit DANUBE PARKS CONNECTED startet nun eine transnationale Initiative zur Stärkung der Donau als Lebensraumkorridor.

Die Donau – Lebensraumverbund und ökologischer Korridor für biogeografische Regionen

Intakte Flusslandschaften mit ihren charakteristischen dynamischen Prozessen zeichnen sich durch eine herausragende Biodiversität aus, die im Wesentlichen auf der großen Vielfalt unterschiedlichster Lebensräume und Sukzessionsstadien auf engstem Raum basiert (u. a. Eoane et al. 2009). Neben den an das Fließwasser gebundenen Arten beherbergen Flüsse je nach Charakter und Einbettung in die Landschaft auch ein entsprechendes Artenspektrum flussbegleitender Feuchtgebiete, Auwälder und unterschiedlicher Offenlandschaften. Selbst diverse Ausprägungen von Trockenstandorten gehören entlang von Flusskorridoren zur charakteristischen Lebensraumausstattung. Flusslandschaften dienen vielfach auch als Leitlinien für wandernde Tierarten und sind ihre naturschutzfachliche Bedeutung zusätzlich unterstreicht. Die Vielzahl unterschiedlicher „Nischen“ bietet besonders vielen Arten Rast- und Überwinterungsgebiete sowie Trittsteine auf ihren Zug- und Ausbreitungsrueten. Als verzweigte Systeme sind Fließgewässer von Natur aus wichtige Lebensraumkorridore und eignen sich ganz besonders gut zur Realisierung eines übergreifenden Lebensraumverbundes (Jitcock 1994, Abb. 1).



Abb. 1: Die Donau und ihre Flusslandschaft zeichnen sich durch ihre besondere Lebensraum- und Artenvielfalt aus und verbinden Länder, biogeografische Regionen, Naturräume (Hintergrund: Karpaten) und Städte (Hintergrund: Bratislava). (Foto: Nationalpark Donau-Auen/Kovacs).

Die Donau gilt als eine der artenreichsten Landschaften Europas (ICPDR 2009). Die große naturschutzfachliche Bedeutung dieser Region spiegelt sich auch in der vergleichsweise hohen Anzahl an Schutzgebieten wider (ICPDR 2015). Die Donau ist nicht nur der internationalste Fluss der Erde, sie verbindet auch mehr biogeografische Regionen als jeder andere Flusskorridor Europas: Sie stellt einen durchgängigen ökologischen

Verbund von der Schwarzmeer-Region, über die Steppenregion, die Pannonische Region bis hin zur Kontinentalen und der Alpenen Region dar (Abb. 2). Neben dem Flusskorridor der Rhone ist die Donau eine der wenigen alpenquerenden Lebensraumkorridore (Küster 2003) und daher für die Ausbreitung von Arten von zentraler Bedeutung, gerade in Anbetracht der noch nicht abgeschlossenen nachzeitlichen Wiederbesiedelung

Publication in „Auenmagazin“ (in prep.)



Biogeographical regions in Europe, 2016

- Alpine
- Anatolian
- Arctic
- Atlantic
- Black Sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Macaronesia
- Mediterranean
- Pannonian
- Steppic
- Outside data coverage

- YouTube AT
- Suchen
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 - BESTE AUF YOUTUBE
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Abonnieren 13

- Übersicht
- Videos
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- Kanäle
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- Kanalinfo

Uploads

 <p>One river two mountains - ecological connectivity works 77 Aufrufe · vor 1 Woche</p>	 <p>DANUBEPAKKS - the voice for nature conservation along the Danube 789 Aufrufe · vor 2 Jahren</p>	 <p>DANUBEPAKKS Presentation in Brussels - White-tailed Eagle as ... 162 Aufrufe · vor 3 Jahren</p>	 <p>White-tailed Eagle Danube-wide winter count 2014 / SchauTV 278 Aufrufe · vor 3 Jahren</p>	 <p>DANUBEPAKKS STEP 2.0 Meeting in Kopacki rit, Croatia 422 Aufrufe · vor 3 Jahren</p>
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- ### Beliebte Kanäle
-  **BibisBeautyPalace**
Abonnieren
 -  **JP Performance**
Abonnieren
 -  **Made My Day**
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 -  **Julienco**
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Next highlight, be prepared!

Danubeparks

Today ← → August 2017 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 Aug	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 Sep	2

Danubeparks

Today ← → September 2017 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1 Sep	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Danubeparks

Today ← → October 2017 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Oct	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 Nov	2	3	4




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Damir M., first DANUBEparksCONNECTED Interreg Volunteer Youth (Sept. 2017 – February 2018)

WP3 WILDisland Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

3.1 Danube Wild Island Learning Process

3.2 WILDisland Pilot Actions

3.3 Establishing Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

3.4 Anchoring WILDisland



WILDIsland – The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

Phase 4 Introduction

The Danube Protected Area Administrations

- share the common mission to work together for the Danube natural heritage;
- consider that the Danube river represent an unique natural area of European importance
- underline the common understanding for the importance of river dynamics as key natural process of an intact river ecosystem and the importance to develop and establish a habitat corridor along the Danube river course
- stress Danube islands as key habitats for highly threatened species characteristic for dynamic river ecosystems and important stepping stones towards a Danube habitat corridor
- share the common understanding of the high value of wild and wilderness areas to allow natural processes

Hence, together with partners and relevant stakeholders, DANUBE PARKS intends to promote shelter conservation of natural and semi-natural Danube islands by launching the WILDIsland campaign, considering islands as "flagship habitats" of intact and natural river ecosystems.

- To ensure a better conservation of Danube WILDIsland on a long term, the proponents of this campaign invite all land owners and land users, all relevant stakeholders and representatives from the policy level to support this initiative, considering the
- the multi-functionality of the Danube, including habitat corridor and biodiversity, recreation and inspiration area, transnational transport corridor and an important area for economic development
 - integration of different sectors, in particular waterway management, forestry as well as water and sediment management, to work efficiently for the sustainable development of the Danube region and the conservation of the WILDIslands.

To establish WILDIsland – The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor, DANUBE PARKS involves the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) to take over the patronage for this initiative, and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region for its support to anchor WILDIsland by promoting this initiative cross-over sectors by the relevant Priority Area Coordinators, in particular PACE and PACE2.

WILDIsland – Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

1. The Frame Conditions

- 1.1. The Danube Wild Island Corridor is Danube wide habitat network of selected Danube islands, all different in size, structure, habitat composition and morphological situation, but all stepping stones within a dynamic river habitat corridor.

- 1.2. WILDIsland measures states of (natural) intact hydro-morphological processes and an active sediment regime (ongoing realisation of sediments), consequently, it is an appeal for the preservation and restoration of a good ecological and hydro-morphological status of the Danube (ICPDR).
- 1.3. WILDIsland represent areas for which natural development and natural dynamic processes are defined as priority. For all sites covered by this concept, a non-intervention approach is defined. Consequently, WILDIsland is to be seen as a statement for the value of wilderness, and this initiative wants to support the idea of wilderness and the preservation of natural sites in Europe (ICPDR).

2. The Definition of a WILDIsland: main criteria

- 2.1. The WILDIsland concept considers all semi-aquatic, respectively peri-aquatic structures (in line 4.5) nearby the main course of the river or its large tributaries, which (partly) surrounded by water. Following this collective and general definition, beside islands (independent from vegetation), also banks and points bars can be taken into consideration.
- 2.2. Following this general definition, principally, the vegetation is not a limiting factor for the definition of WILDIsland as long as it can be considered natural or semi-natural habitat type (see 2.3); some of the WILDIslands are covered by forests, some have wetland or sedge bushes, others showing pure sand or gravel surface nearly without any vegetation.
- 2.3. Islands are considered as "wild" due to the fact that they are outcomes of river dynamics and natural processes. When suffering this dynamic process, also islands affected by human alteration (e.g. forestry) and resulting out of existing river engineering infrastructure (e.g. behind spoil banks) have to be included.
- 2.4. All WILDIslands are in a natural or semi-natural status, and (nearly) without any human infrastructure (islands carrying human infrastructure like houses, bridge piers, electricity pylon etc. are excluded from the WILDIsland concept).
- 2.5. Exclusively, islands and corresponding riverine structures can be considered within WILDIsland which represent natural habitats for which non-intervention management is the adequate concept (islands carrying agricultural and forest or man-made habitats, even of high natural value like e.g. meadows, or also large scale forest plantations are principally excluded as long these habitats are not restored and transformed into a more natural status).
- 2.6. All WILDIslands are in such a good ecological status and embedded in dynamic natural framework that non-intervention management is considered as adequate practice to increase habitat quality on the long-term and to induce "wildness" for all species.

3. Management principles for WILDIslands, assigned for the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor:

- 3.1. For all WILDIslands, there is a joint commitment for non-intervention management. Principally, a natural development should be allowed, human alterations and impacts should be reduced to a minimum.
- 3.2. Non-intervention management means in particular the stoppage of forestry and logging, no erection of infrastructure and no river regulation work inside the defined polygons.

- 3.3. Exceptions of the non-intervention approach of this concept are threats for human security, needs of common interests (e.g. flood protection measures) and legally binding interventions.
- 3.4. River restoration, aiming to reduce existing human alterations (e.g. open of spoil banks, removal of embankment, side-arm opening) in line with WILDIsland even when these actions can involve the changing or the loss of WILDIslands.
- 3.5. Principally, active habitat management is not foreseen. Conservation activities for specific species or conservation aspects (e.g. management of meadow area species) are to be implemented only based on a joint agreement by the WILDIsland working group (see 4.1).
- 3.6. The commitment for non-intervention management does not influence maintenance work in the navigation channel or infrastructure actions downstream or upstream of the polygons. However, the signing parties support this initiative as a statement for the preservation of river dynamics and will act in accordance to this goal.
- 3.7. This commitment doesn't influence landowner's rights and duties.
- 3.8. WILDIsland concept doesn't touch low activities of local people like recreation, jogging, swimming, visiting the islands. Additional regulations on this topic only can be taken by responsible authorities and bodies.

4. Establishing WILDIsland-implementation

- 4.1. The DANUBE PARKS working group "WILDIsland" and river morphology, established at the kick-off conference of DANUBE parks CONNECTED (27th February), is responsible for the establishment of WILDIsland, including the involvement of relevant stakeholders, land owner and land users and policy makers.
- 4.2. Islands can be included in the WILDIsland (Article 6) only when all defined requirements (Chapter 3) are fulfilled.
- 4.3. The agreement on non-intervention management can be reached by an existing convention (Article 6), core zone of National Parks, Nature reserves, by additional legally binding conventions or by an existing agreement and statement by the responsible land owners and land users.
- 4.4. WILDIsland is a dynamic concept in a very dynamic ecosystem (changing water levels, realisation of sediments), however, a static approach has been chosen to set-up the concept (inclusion or exclusion of the island composition based on good earth photos from different years are to be considered because of different water levels), and all islands taken into consideration are defined through polygons. Due to the dynamic frame conditions, regular evaluations of these polygons are needed (see point 1.3 and 1.4).
- 4.5. DANUBE PARKS together with all partners agrees to follow a step-by-step approach when implementing the Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor: first, each partner nominates WILDIslands for which agreements can easily be reached, which are covered by existing protection status etc. This islands act as showcase for more complex WILDIslands, to be included step-by-step in the future.
- 4.6. A first survey done within the DANUBE PARKS network shows a potential for WILDIsland of approx. 525 islands, covering approx. 9,494 hectares (see table 2).



DANUBE parks CONNECTED: WILDIslands part of European Wilderness Network

by MAX A.E. ROSSBERG on FEBRUARY 27, 2017 0 COMMENTS

<http://wilderness-society.org/danubeparksconnected-wildislands-part-of-european-wilderness-network/>

Transnational Expert Workshop (Ingolstadt, 17th February, 2017)



Trilateral Preparatory workshop: Dunakiliti
(17th January, 2017)



Cross-sector Conference
DANUBEparksCONNECTED & Danube STREAM
(Dunakiliti, 26th April, 2017)

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WILDisland Initiative

Active

Last Response: Jun 27, 2017 2:18 AM

8
Responses

0.62
Avg per day

100%
Completion
Rate



DANUBE parksCONNECTED Dry Habitat
Corridor

Active

Last Response: Jun 23, 2017 3:23 AM

16
Responses

0.70
Avg per day

100%
Completion
Rate



Questionnaire DANUBE FREE SKY

Active

Last Response: Jun 12, 2017 7:44 AM

27
Responses

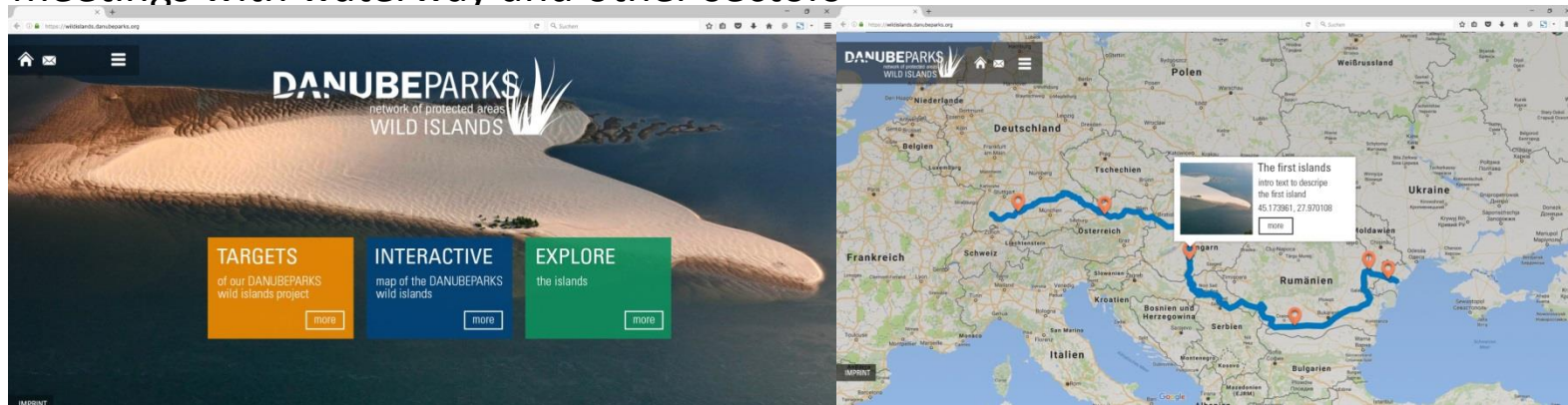
0.80
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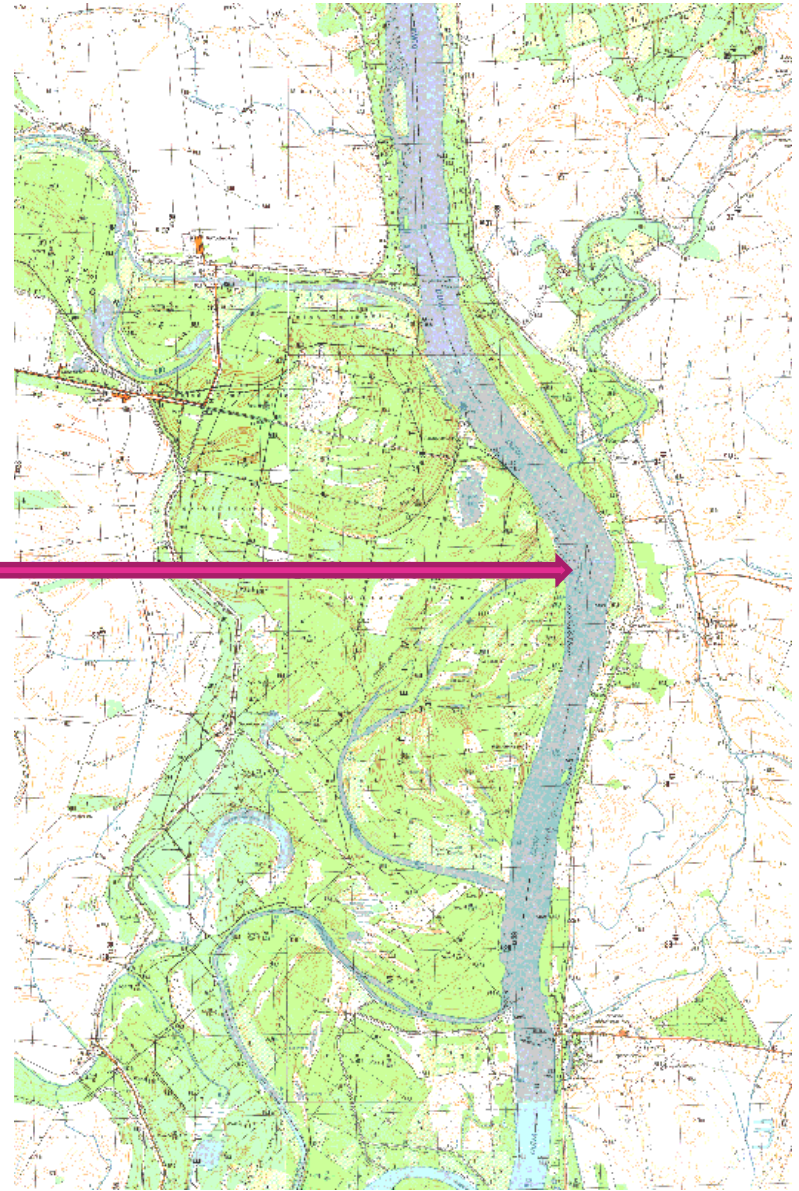
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Download Survey List

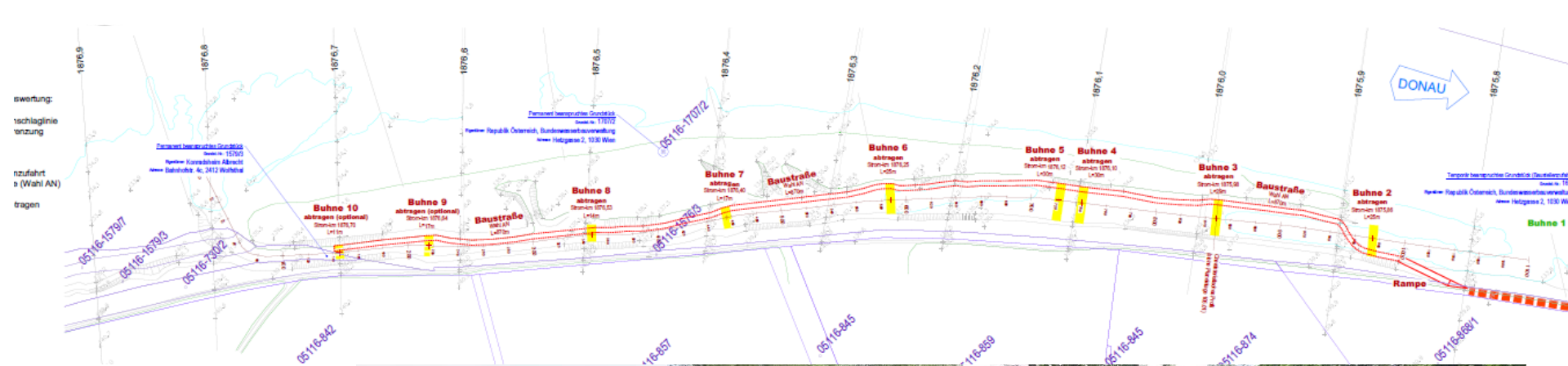
WP3 WILDisland Next Steps

- Finalizing definition of WILDisland
- Strategic Process & WILDisland campaigning: Task Group (!!!) supported by Environment Agency Austria (subcontracted by Wachau)
- WILDisland online tool (subcontracted by Duna Ipoly National Park)
- Further development of „pilot islands“
- National meetings with waterway and other sectors





Nomination of a first WILDIslands in each Danube Protected Area



Preparation of pilot restoration actions
(e.g. Donau-Auen National Park: intense project planning)

WP4 DANUBE FREE SKY

4.1 DANUBE FREE SKY Learning Process

4.2 Elaboration of Danube Free Sky Position Paper

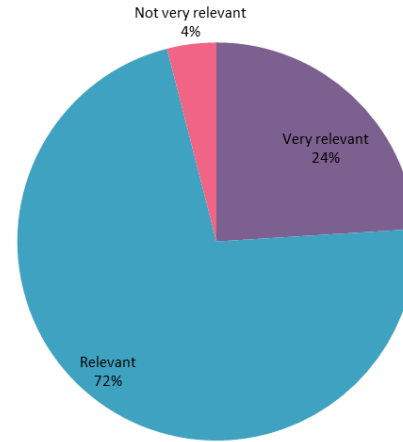
4.3 Pilot Actions

4.4 Danube Free Sky Strategy

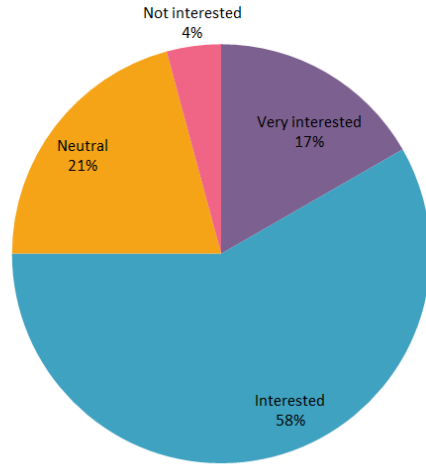


Transnational Expert Workshop
(Ingolstadt, 21st February, 2017)

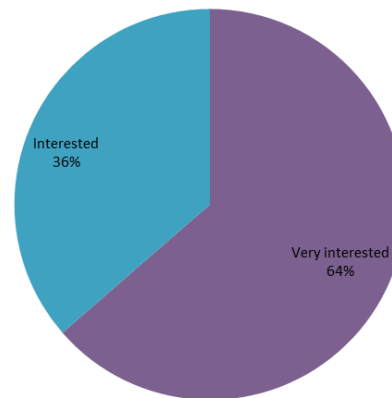
How relevant, do you think, is bird collision at powerlines in and close to your protected area?



How interested are the powerline operators in your country in a closer cooperation?



How interested are you in a follow-up project on the field of bird conservation & powerlines? (Please explain further in the text box)



**We need an active Expert
Group !**

WP4 DANUBE FREE SKY Next Steps

- Elaboration of the Danube-wide Strategy
(by BirdLife Austria and external expert DDBRA) together with Task Group
DANUBEparksCONNECTED (!!!)
- National meetings with powerline operators to boost DANUBE FREE SKY
- Identification of possible long-term options

**Let us use the potential
of the cooperation !**

WP5 Danube Dry Habitat Corridor

5.1 Establishing the DANUBEAPRKS Canyons subsidiary Network

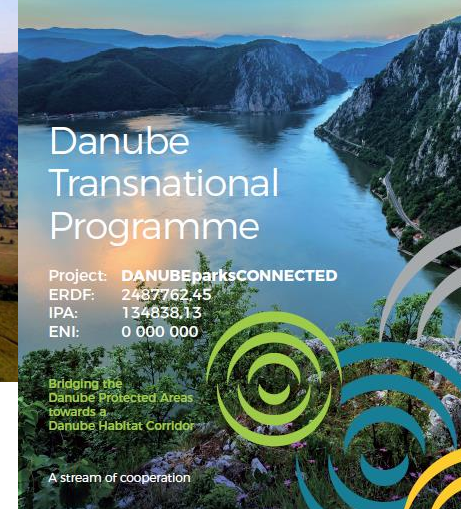
5.2 Danube Dry Habitat: Cadastre, maps & gap analyzes

5.3 Trying Dry: Pilot Actions

5.4 Elaborating the Danube Dry Habitat Corridor Strategy



Transnational Expert Workshop
(Wachau, Spitz, 7th April 2017)



Memorandum of Cooperation of the "Danube Canyons", to foster the cooperation among Break-through Valleys along the Danube

1. Background

Considering that:

- the Danube River is a green lifeline for biodiversity;
- the Danube Protected Areas preserve the most valuable sites and are crucial sites for the long-term preservation of the rich biodiversity and natural heritage in this region;
- since 10 years, DANUBE PARKS – the Danube River Network of Protected Areas work for a harmonised and concerted approach for nature conservation along the Danube – with the Danube Canyons as important partners within this network since many years;
- the Danube break-through valleys and gorges – in the following named Danube Canyons – are of specific beauty and value, sharing specific challenges and requirements in their management, partially different in their focus compared to Protected Areas working for flood plain areas;
- Danube canyons stands for the need of cross-border cooperation as they often are shared between countries and regions, should not stand for separation but cooperation;
- the long-term experience in each of the Danube Canyons administrations on the field of habitat management and restoration, observation, sustainable development, nature tourism and nature education forms a pool of know-how and good practice;
- the intention to share this know-how and good practice resulted in a shared project activity in the frame of DANUBE parks CONNECTED, an Danube-wide project on the field of ecological networks, cofunded by the EU through Danube Transnational Programme;
- the Memorandum of Cooperation is now the first step after the intense discussion process within DANUBE parks CONNECTED, and a statement for the continuation of this cooperation among the Danube Canyons.

2. Approach of Danube Canyons protected areas' and habitat management

The undersigned parties represent the some of the most impressive break-through valleys along the Danube. These sites are of specific beauty and host valuable habitat types and species, there is high responsibilities of these areas in particular for old and semi-rural habitats, rocky habitats, steep hillside and gorge forests (Biosphere Reserves) and more. Additionally, these areas often act as key areas for habitat connectivity, linking the Danube valley with the crossing, surrounding and passing mountainous and forest bio-regions like the Carpathians, Quercus/Betula/Quercus, Bükkyő Hills etc.

The Danube Canyon protected areas face this responsibility by wise-use of these areas, by preserving and managing these valuable sites and by implementing projects to reach these goals.

Beside river management and restoration, flood plain forest conservation, wetland restoration and species conservation, for the Danube Canyons in particular the following aspects were in the focus of previous and current projects, which makes these protected areas unique in the network of Danube Protected Areas:

- conservation of dry grasslands (e.g. LIFE12 NAT/HU/001028), conservation of steppe and grassland woods and meadows (LIFE03 NAT/HU/000167, LIFE06 NAT/HU/000098)
- Volunteers initiatives on the field of dry grassland management (Bios)
- conservation of hillside and gorge forests (e.g. LIFE04NAT/AAT/000003)
- habitat connectivity for mountain regions, with the Danube Protected Areas as link between mountain and river (e.g. BIOREGIO ETOEEL)
- ...

3. Common goals and objectives

Due to their locations and habitat structures, the focus in the day-to-day management differs from the protected areas located in floodplain areas. As a characteristic feature, all the Danube canyons manage dry and semi-rural habitats like grasslands, old oak forests, typical habitats of these steep slopes. In the frame of DANUBE parks CONNECTED, a closer cooperation among the Danube Protected Areas representing has been initiated: experience exchange, know-how transfer, shared activities on raising awareness and communication, development of joint activities and joint future projects. But also on the field of BMS.

The above mentioned demonstrates that the Danube Canyons interested in the creation of a subsidiary network under the umbrella of DANUBE PARKS and wish to cooperate for a better synergy and efficiency in the realisation of this network in order to:

- ensure the transfer of the existing know-how;
- further develop and to further raise the efficiency of local management actions by built capacity through Danube-wide cooperation;
- develop a joint perspective for Danube break-through valleys;
- raise the awareness for the importance of conservation actions on local, regional and transnational level by harmonised communication, nature education and awareness raising campaigns;
- adopt cross-border approach in gorges shared among different countries and regions, as it often is the case;
- contribute to the goals of the DANUBE PARKS network for ecological connectivity in the Danube region by linking the Danube region with mountainous and forest complexes passed through;
- ...
- act as catalyst for the enlargement of the DANUBE PARKS partnership by cooperation with additional Canyons (not always represented by protected area administrations) and boosting and closer cooperation with canyons and gorges along the tributary rivers;
- involve relevant additional partners, in particular protected areas, which represent similar types of habitats outside Danube Canyons (e.g. Biosphere Reserves, Wienerwald at the Wiener Röhre; Biosphere National Park and Quercus/Betula Protected Landscape Area at the Dobruška; Euzsika Gorge?????)

4. Activities

The following activities will lead to the achievement of the above defined objectives:

- Creation of a forum for exchange of results, knowledge and know-how in the field of the management of break-through valleys;
- Exchange of information on activities about the management practice, in order to harmonize ongoing activities and projects and their approach as well as to optimize their impact on common goals;
- Capacity development and education activities for professionals in the relevant Danube protected areas;
- Definition of joint activities to demonstrate good practice;
- Identification of financial resources on different levels, for the implementation of joint projects and initiatives;
- Communication activities with the public and stakeholders with a view to raise the awareness for the beauty and value of the Danube break through valleys;
- Cross-border networking with neighbouring canyons, inviting additional Danube Canyons to join this subsidiary network, strengthening the contact with Canyons at the tributary rivers (potential lead nature Park Budapest (pp))
- Considering "hilly locations" close to the Danube Protected Areas (e.g. Balica Hills, Balaton, Röhre, Dobruška (Kövyk) area) in future protected areas management;
- test as good practice for other larger European rivers and share experiences with those states;
- Development of joint project proposals to enable and ensure an active cooperation and the implementation of concrete measures

5. Organisation

The Danube Canyons cooperation will be insured by a regular exchange of information and reporting of activities in the frame of the DANUBE PARKS Network.

The activities from all partners will be reported in the available media of the DANUBE PARKS networks and the cooperation initiative will be particularly stressed in order to highlight this cooperation in favour of biodiversity conservation in the Danube region.

One meeting per year should be organized, e.g. in the frame of the General Assembly of the DANUBE PARKS Association, dealing about new project developments, lobbying and communication activities, additional formal or informal meetings are foreseen to tackle specific fields of intervention.

The steering committee of this cooperation initiative is ensured by the involvement of the DANUBE PARKS Management Board in the communication and cooperation and by embedding the subsidiary network in the DANUBE PARKS Association. No new structure should be created.

Financial support for this cooperation and for the implementation of joint activities (as ensured by the DANUBE PARKS Association and, additionally, will be requested by competent national institutions of and the European Commission or by individual public or private programs.

To ensure the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation, concrete actions have been developed and need to be revised every 3 years.

6. Final disposal




The partner protected areas and partner institutions of the Danube Canyons should be in a continuous and permanent informal contact and information loops in order to be well informed about ongoing procedures and cooperation needs.

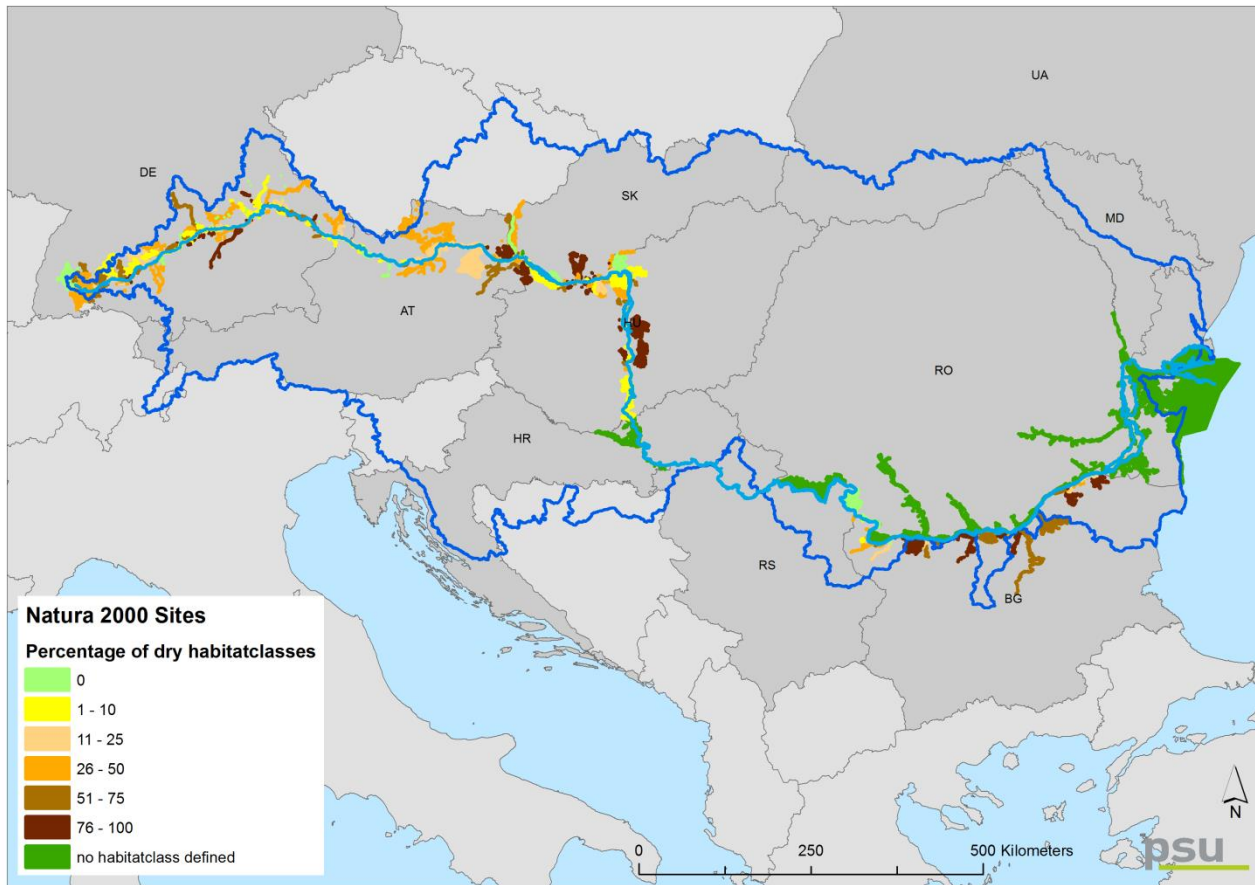
Effectiveness: This Cooperation initiative will take effect upon signature from all sides. Its duration is unlimited but each signatory may terminate it by informing the other signatories in writing with a prior delay of a year in order not to endanger running projects.

Amendments:

The signatories may, by mutual consent and in writing, review and amend this Memorandum of Cooperation on the basis of the experience gained in implementing it.

Budapest, September 2017

	Michael Schimek Wienau		Andras Egó Duna-Éggy National Park
	Iron Gate National Park		Djerdap National Park



Danube Dry Habitat Corridor: first Danube-wide maps

DANUBE PARKS
Network of Protected Areas

Danube Dry Habitat Strategy

Aiming at the Reinforcement of a Network of
Dry Habitats

Office in charge:



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Domagkstraße 1a, D-80807 München
T +49 (0)89 / 3 60 40 - 320
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info@psu-schaller.de

Consignor:

Landratsamt Passau
Member of DANUBE PARKS – Network of Protected Areas

Munich, Datum

Dr. Johannes Gnädinger

Dipl.-Ing. Christine Saala

M.Sc. Kerstin Huber

Danube Dry Habitat Strategy

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List of Abbreviations

Prof. Schaller UmweltConsult GmbH



e.g. cross-border
grazing
Austria/Slovakia:
Starting event
„Dammauftrieb“
Planned for 11th July

Danube Dry Habitat Corridor pilot actions
(presented and jointly discussed, now further developed on national level)

**We need an active Expert
Group !**

WP5 Danube Dry Habitat Corridor Next Steps

- Elaboration of the Danube-wide Strategy
(by PSU Schaller together with Task Group DANUBEparksCONNECTED (!!!))
- Finalization and signing MoC Danube Canyons (when? Where?)
- Development of pilot actions
- (1st Danube Volunteers Day: see WP2)

WP6 Riparian Forest Corridor

6.1 Danube Riparian Forest Fitness Check

6.2 Elaboration of Danube Riparian Forest Corridor Roadmap

6.3 Testing and Demonstrating: pilot actions

6.4 cross-sector training: study visits



Transnational Expert Workshop
(Wachau, Spitz, 6th April 2017)



Skype Conference with European Environment Agency
(It works well!!)

WP6 Riparian Forest Corridor Next Steps

- Intense Discussion process by Vojvodinasume and Task Group DANUBEparksCONNECTED (!!!)
- Development of maps
- Forest Study Trip: Upper Danube (soon)
- Preparation of pilot actions



Intense discussion of the working group is needed !

WP7 Danube Habitat Corridor

7.1 Danube Habitat Corridor Guiding Principles

7.2 Anchoring the Danube Habitat Corridor

Not started yet! (According to time schedule)

Upcoming Working Steps

- Reporting (mid of July)
- 1st Danube Volunteers Day (August, September): your communication is needed
- Strategic Work by external experts (with support of Task Groups)
- Working meeting of Task Groups in all WPs!!!! (personal and/or skype)
- Pilot actions on national level (highly important for WILDIsland, DANUBE FREE SKY)

Upcoming Meetings DANUBEpar**ks**CONNECTED

- 8th Sept. 2017: Duna-Ipoly NP (including WILDisland Workshop WP3 & Dry Habitats)
- Oktober (?) 2017: Forestry Study Visit Upper Danube (incl. Meeting of WP6 Riparian Forest Corridor Expert Group)
- October/November 2017: Conference Mavir/Budapest; participation of WP4 DANUBE FREE SKY expert group
- November 2017: Rusenski lom: First Year Review – obligatory for all partners !!! (including General Assembly DANUBEPARKS Association (!!!))

Upcoming Strategic Decisions/Documents

- Danube Canyons: Memorandum of Cooperation
(When? Where?)
- WILDisland WP3: Joint Statement by the Board of Directors to express interest for future cooperation (among navigation and conservation sector)
(at Directors Meeting: spring/summer 2019, Budapest)
- DANUBE FREE SKY: Memorandum of Cooperation to express willingness for cooperation among Energy Sector & Conservation
(at closing conference for WP4: spring 2019, Tulcea)
- Quality Management: report for all main outputs by DANUEPARKS Association Board & PAC6 EU Danube Strategy

Perspectives for Follow-up initiatives

- Danube-wide LIFE+ for Triturus dobrogicus
Lead: DANUBEPARKS
- Danube-wide LIFE+ to implement WILDisland
Lead: DANUBEPARKS & navigation sector
- Danube-wide LIFE+ to implement DANUBE FREE SKY
Lead: Life Energy (SVK), Raptor Conservation Society SVK & DANUBEPARKS
- Different options for Danube-wide Interreg Danube Transnational Programme
(e.g. conservation and cities, Danube-wide music expedition,...)
- Different options for cross-border Interreg Projects
(e.g. cross-border rivers)

Thank you for the good cooperation in period 1 !

Appreciate our first milestones !

A lot of success for the 2nd period !